


REPORT

DATE: July 7, 2005

TO: Administrative Committee
Regional Council

FROM: Hasan Ikhata
Zahi Faranesh 

SUBJECT: Shanghai and Japan Maglev Trip in July/August 2005

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Maglev Task Force is recommending that SCAG send a delegation of approximately 15 elected officials to Shanghai, China and Nagoya, Japan for an educational, exploratory Maglev experience in July/August 2005, to be funded by other sources. However, if SCAG is unable to secure funding from other sources, Maglev Task Force leadership would like the Regional Council to recommend that SCAG send approximately 6 elected officials only to Shanghai, China through use of the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this trip is to educate a Southern California delegation on Maglev technology and its application to the SCAG region.

BACKGROUND:

During the June Maglev Task Force meeting, there was a discussion regarding a trip to China and Japan to view and experience Maglev directly. The Maglev Task Force approved funding 15 people to go to Shanghai, China and Nagoya, Japan through General Fund monies if other sources of funding could not be secured. Subsequent to this action, discussion occurred with Maglev Task Force leadership. After reviewing the cost of the trip for 15 people and its potential impact on the general fund and other programs, Task Force leadership determined that it would be prudent to send fewer people and limit travel to Shanghai, China if other funding sources could not be secured.

The trip will take place in July/August 2005 and will be planned for a total of 6 days (approximately 4 days in Shanghai, and 2 days for travel). The estimated cost of the trip is \$3,050 per person, including airfare, hotel and meals. SCAG is seeking funding from other sources; however, due to the short planning horizon for this trip, it may be unlikely that SCAG can secure other funding.

Per leadership recommendation, the following table lists the approximate costs of the trip per person and in total for 6 people. The costs were derived from the Federal Per Diem rates published for Shanghai, China.

Item	Cost
Airfare/ person	\$1,500
Hotel/ person	\$800
Food/ person	\$750
Total/ person	\$3,050
Per/ Person x 6	\$18,300

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FISCAL IMPACT: *tc*

At this time, all anticipated revenues have been programmed in the general fund for FY 2005/2006. Funding all or a portion of this trip would require reprogramming of previously approved commitments in the general fund. This trip is not eligible for Federal FRA grant reimbursement.